

AboutTime

ISSUE #15

Function and Fashion for the Wrist

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Human Time

Prior to the electronic age of tracking time, absolute accuracy was the unachievable goal that so many watchmakers had strived for with spring and lever. When you think about it, it really wasn't all that long ago that annual chronometric and observatory competitions would laud the winners of mechanical accuracy for timekeepers that strived for an unachievable perfection based solely on the power stored in a metal spring.

These winning watches would deviate only a few seconds (or less) per day and were the very best examples of the time. As recently as the 1960's and 70's, fine-tuned machines were designed with new escapements to mitigate the effect of gravity, new materials to overcome magnetic and temperature effects, and new devices to supply a steady and even amount of force to the mechanical heart of the watch - the escapement. Over the course of more than six hundred years mechanical clocks and later watches graduated in accuracy from hours, to minutes, and then to seconds per day.

Late in the 1960's, the miniaturization of the quartz-controlled timekeeper allowed for the creation of a wristwatch that shattered any previous expectations of accuracy and made moot the challenges that had for the previous six centuries driven the watch and clockmakers of their day. Only fifty years later our world now marches to the cadence of cesium atomic regulated time accurate to the millisecond and displayed on almost all of our electronic devices.

As humans do we really need that type of accuracy on a day to day basis? If you're running behind schedule does it matter if you are exactly 4 minutes and 33.321 seconds late to a meeting? I guess knowing the exact time is nice, but a certain amount of 'give' is only human. That's why I love my mechanical watches. Yes they are still 99.9% accurate, but as a human and not a super computer I'm more than happy to allow my watch to run a bit less than perfectly, because no one is perfect in any case.

Many native Americans had no need for watches. Time was a looser concept for them, with roots in the grander cycles of nature and not the frenetic needs of the moment. Jamaicans might reply "soon-come" if asked when they would arrive somewhere, leaving a wide and very natural window that meant they would be there - when they got there.

As for me, the ticking heart of a mechanical watch represents a wonderful balance between cesium and seasons.

Its **AboutTime** - keeping.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and flourishes, representing the name Gary George Girdvainis.

Gary George Girdvainis

**CRAIG HESTER**

craig@isochronmedia.com

WELCOME TO *ABOUT TIME*

When Gary Girdvainis told me some five years ago about his idea for a magazine devoted to attainable watches, my immediate response was to tell him it was brilliant. Honestly, I doubt I could even list all the watch magazines, blogs or websites devoted to high-end watches that most people can only dream of owning. These publications are great for voyeurism of the masters of horology. But for us regular Joes it rarely becomes more than that. Watches under \$1,000, or even under \$2,400 (the cut off for *About Time*), get scant mention in these publications – usually relegated to a small section in the back if there at all.

When it comes to editorial coverage in print of attainable timepieces, *About Time* stands alone. To be sure, there is more coverage of these watch brands online, particularly if you include groups on Facebook. But for us old schoolers like me, holding a high-gloss, well-written magazine in your hands is still a genuine pleasure. So when Gary asked me if I would be interested in becoming the editor of *About Time* as he began his relaunch of IW magazine, I didn't hesitate. Many readers may know me as the owner of the Détente Watch Group, a company that imports timepieces into North America largely from Eastern Europe and Russia. What you may not know is that my first career was in the media and the chance to be at the editorial helm of a magazine, especially one devoted to a topic I have such personal passion for, is something I couldn't pass up.

I want to thank Gary for his faith in me and tell all the readers how much I am already enjoying serving as editor and look forward to

the fun that will be leading *About Time* with Gary.

Also, I would like to address the proverbial “elephant in the room” right here in my first editor's note. Yes, our company will continue to import watches and some of you may know we are in the process of launching our own watch brand. Those watches will, of course, continue to be covered by *About Time*. However, when it comes to any watches our company engages with, the writing and editorial control for that will remain 100% with Gary. I will have plenty to keep me busy covering the other great timepieces that fill the pages of *About Time*.

As far as the future of the magazine, Gary and I are already working on lots of great ideas for new and innovative coverage. In this issue you'll find an article about Time Visions, an online watch retailer that specializes in producing their own high-end watch photography. We want to have more coverage of the retailers who bring you the best in attainable timepieces. We want to create more in-depth coverage of micro brands, with the goal to highlight those that will be the most intriguing and well-built for your wrist. We also plan to expand and further develop our online reporting while maintaining the features and sections you enjoy in each issue.

Thanks for being a reader and I look forward to serving as editor. My goal is to learn along with you every day about the array of watches that represent the bulk of the timekeeping universe.

Craig Hester,
Editor

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GLASHÜTTE

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CLAUDE BERNARD

Two pie-slice windows allow a view of the automatic mechanical movement inside the new Open Heart by Claude Bernard. Swiss made and available in several variations, the 40.5 mm case plays bigger thanks to a thin bezel and is slim and comfortable on the wrist. Choose your favorite version in steel, two-tone or full gold PVD with bold Roman Numerals or the more subdued baton markers. These watches have an unusual crown-left orientation. Price: \$950.



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ZINVO

Recalling the shape of a jet engine's turbine blades, the central seconds counter on the Zinvo dial is always in a slow motion warm up for takeoff. Powered by the robust (if austere) Miyota 8215 automatic winding mechanical movement, the blades add a bit of action and style simultaneously, and do so at a really incredible price starting at only \$299. Available in either a full-size 44mm men's edition or a mid-size 36mm edition. All versions feature a sapphire crystal over the dial, a see-through exhibition back and genuine leather straps. Variations of case, dial and strap options will make it easy to find one that fits your own style.





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ORIS

Accuracy is guaranteed thanks to the certified chronometer status achieved in the simple and elegant Artelier Chronometer. A subtle basket weave pattern adds a touch of texture to a dial otherwise free of excess. Following recent trends towards more moderated sizes, the 40mm steel case is a comfortable 40mm and houses a Swiss Automatic mechanical (Sellita SW-200) movement with a custom rotor. Expect to pay between \$975-\$1,100 depending on which strap or bracelet you might prefer.





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JUNGHANS

The Meister Driver Chronoscope two-eye chronograph embraces the retro chic look of a gentlemen driver's type in a 30-minute chronograph made in Germany with a Swiss engine inside. The toned-down colors of putty and ecru feel very vintage and its 40.8mm (to be exact) diameter case is crafted in polished steel with a hardened Plexiglas crystal with a Sicrilan coating. This coating is intended to add scratch resistance, transparency and UV protection. Inside beats a modified Valjoux/ETA 7750 and water resistance is rated to only 3atm. \$2,190

Similar in both size and function to the Chronoscope, the Meister Telemeter instills a more instrument-like visage to the two-register dial. On top is the same treated Plexiglas crystal and even though the dimensions and functions are identical to the Driver, the Telemeter is powered by a Dubois-Depraz modified ETA 2892-2 automatic mechanical movement. \$2,190



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LONGINES

The Longines Heritage 1969 draws its inspiration from a timepiece created in the late 1960s. This model's reissue brings back the watch out of round and expands the Longines Heritage collection. With its cushion-shaped steel case and its brushed silvery dial, this unusual watch echoes the essence of the original model with modern proportions. Rose-colored hands and indexes give it an additional touch of elegance. Inside is an ETA A31. L01 automatic winding mechanical movement with an extended power reserve of 64 hours thanks in-part to the 25,200 frequency of the balance wheel. Savvy shoppers will find this watch for less than \$2,000.



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DAVOSA

Evo 1908 Automatic

The new Davosa Evo 1908 Automatic displays conspicuous curves with its 39.5mm-by-36mm tonneau case, and offers a nice range of dark and light dials to satisfy most any taste. The watch telegraphs a somewhat retro style typical to pocket watches of the early 1900's. Two classic versions are available with a light or dark guilloché dial, a minutes display on a ring just inside the bezel and polished hands coated with SuperLuminova. The sportier versions without the inner ring feature cream, blue or black dials and a heavier dose of Super-LumiNova on the hour markers, Roman numerals, and hands. The dial and the sapphire crystal on all models are both curved to match the tonneau case form, and an extended case back better positions the strap on your wrist. Inside Davosa fits an automatic Sellita SW260 movement with date. The back of the 12 mm tall case is screwed down and water resistant to 5atm. Price: \$862



It's not easy to define the café racer lifestyle. Think leather, but not the Harley-Davidson leather of Sturgis. Think winding hills in the Italian countryside that level into straightaways where you bury the needle with blistering speed. Think Steve McQueen or James Dean (maybe). Think of that unexpected mix of intensity and laid back attitude that seems so unlikely in one person or subculture. It's hot and cool all at the same time.

But it's more than that. Or more accurately, less than that. Café racer motorcycles, either stock or custom, strip away everything unnecessary. They ratchet down the bike to its essence with nothing left but speed. Strip away all the extras, streamline the build and you've got a café racer motorcycle, and, what is essentially the café racer lifestyle (maybe). Why all the "maybes"? As stated, it's not easy to define.

Now, try and figure out how to embody all those loosely defined criteria in a watch. That is exactly what Enrico Margaritelli has been doing with his Italian-designed CT Scuderia Swiss-Made. They are at once simple and yet offer complications of functionality a racer would want. There is a definite flair to them, but no saddle bags.

"CT Scuderia blends the meticulous mechanics of Swiss construction and movements with the inspiration imbued by the classic café racer lifestyle," says Enrico. All but one of the watch series the firm produces are in the "bullhead" configuration, with the pushers at the top. "The unique feature of our original case design with the crown and pushers positioned at 12 o'clock, characterize the watch as a stopwatch," he explains.

If the enthusiasm Steve "Carpy" Carpenter has for the brand is any indication, then Enrico has done his job quite well in capturing the essence of the café racer. Carpenter is the "Carpy" in Carpy's Cafe Racers and he builds custom racers and parts. If anyone embodies the lifestyle, it would have to be Carpenter. And, again, it's an unexpected





mix of intensity and laid back attitude. He clearly won't tolerate any chintz in his construction, but his home base is called Carpy's Cafe for a reason. He doesn't want to take it all too seriously. In the end, it's all just about speed, simplicity and style.

"As a motorcycle dispatch rider in the City of London back in the day, 'Time was of the Essence', Carpenter says. "Sure wished I had a CT Scuderia back then, as I had trips to the House of Commons, Buckingham Palace and the Home Office quite regularly."

Cafe Racers and watches are related in many ways, according to Carpenter. They are both mechanical, have gears sprockets and moving parts. Also, they don't take much to wind up.

"The tick tick of the watch's own heart beat coincides with the tick tick of my motor when she is cooling down," he says.

Racing motorcycles is always about time on the track, Carpenter said. Even to this day, it is all about the fastest time.

"Strap on a Scuderia timepiece and sling your leg over your machine and both mechanical internals become as one," he said.

Still, finding one narrative thread about this fast growing culture isn't easy. You'll discover competing histories and mythos of just what café racing is when doing research about the sport, if you can even call it a sport. Since there is no clear definition, we'll go with the one

Enrico shares. The term developed among British motorcycle enthusiasts of the late 1950s and 1960s. The name couldn't be more literal. It was and is defined by short, high-speed rides between cafés, or as Enrico puts it "drinking establishments."

The motorcycles themselves are "lightweight, lightly powered and optimized for speed and handling rather than comfort." In short, these are no hogs. They tend to feature low-mounted handlebars, prominent seat cowlings and elongated fuel tanks. One story, perhaps myth, is that café racers would "record race." Put a record on the jukebox, tear out of the café and race to a predetermined spot and return before the record could finish playing. Seems to fit, whether true or not.

Enrico's most colorful line, simply called the Corsa Café Racer series, is a bullhead chrono with checkered flag insignia all around the outside of the chapter ring. The engine is a multi-jewel Swiss made Ronda quartz and the enameled dial protected by a sapphire crystal rests inside a moderately sized, by today's standards, 44mm case.

"Our design details really differentiate ourselves; we experiment with various motorcycle materials and finishes such as carbon fiber and cast iron, making us one of few brands that create a backside design and finish that is just as interesting as the dial," Enrico says.

Enrico comes from a family of watchmakers. His grandfather,

“AS A MOTORCYCLE DISPATCH RIDER IN THE CITY OF LONDON BACK IN THE DAY, ‘TIME WAS OF THE ESSENCE’”, CARPENTER SAYS. “SURE WISHED I HAD A CT SCUDERIA BACK THEN, AS I HAD TRIPS TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS, BUCKINGHAM PALACE AND THE HOME OFFICE QUITE REGULARLY.”





Ariodante Margaritelli, was a dedicated watchmaker in Parma, Italy, where he created highly technical precision watch instruments for the military during World War I and II.

"He and my father are my biggest inspirations. They are who pushed me to follow in their footsteps as a third-generation Italian watchmaker," Enrico says.

Enrico spent many years working for others in the watch industry. He was in Fossil's senior management before launching CT (Contatempo) Scuderia in 2012. And, of course, Enrico is a café racer himself.

When creating the theme and outline for the brand, Enrico tinkered with one of his grandfather's stop watches and played around with configurations to achieve what he wanted in the look, feel and functionality of a watch to meet the lifestyle. He then took the ideas he had cobbled together and fashioned them with modern materials and an up-to-date movement. Within a year, his initial vision became a reality.

Five years later and the company currently offers a line of approximately 24 different series with multiple styles in each. All carry

the Swiss Made label, with some automatics and some quartz. The strapwork on the executions is exactly what you would expect from a watch steeped in the world of leather, echoing fine motorcycle gear.

"Our straps are made with a construction and materials that are not common even in many commercial brands, with the leather sourced more like gentleman's artisanal shoes with handmade production rather than traditional watchstrap design," Enrico said.

CT Scuderia made the journey across the Atlantic in what might seem an unexpected way, and, no, it wasn't by motorcycle. Well, not directly at least. A man known for bringing tritium-tube technology to the mainstream in watches decided to embrace a watch brand that doesn't even make lume a central part of its brand story.

Twenty-seven years ago, Barry Cohen launched Luminox. It's a name you might have heard of. And within the past few months, he sold his interest in the company. The way Cohen tells it, he was burned out on Luminox and didn't find fulfillment in the work any longer. As many who see fewer years ahead than behind, he decided to take on a new chapter in his life when he came across CT Scuderia in Baselworld, the annual watch fair in Basel, Switzerland.





"I grew up on bikes as a kid, starting with dirt bikes when I was 13, moving on to street bikes when I got my driver's license and had about 15 bikes by the time I had gotten through college, so they were certainly part of my youth," Cohen said.

"This love of motorcycles seemed very much in line with the notion of distributing a brand such as CT Scuderia that is tied to the café racer style of motorcycle, as it gave me the chance to meld my watch career with a passion developed over many years. I thought this would be a new challenge, but lots of fun, and indeed it is. I'm really enjoying myself for the first time in quite a while."

Cohen sees the CT Scuderia line as one that incorporates only the highest quality materials but maintains an approachable price point. The watches range from \$850 to \$1,600 in quartz with most models on the lower side of this range, and automatics running from \$1,200 to \$1,700 and the automatic chronographs and specialty diamond pieces from \$3,300 to \$3,600.

"Unlike most bullhead watches, CT Scuderia has a patent on its construction design with integrated horns that turn down and wrap the wrist perfectly, making it the most ergonomic, wearable and comfortable bullhead watch designs on the market," Cohen said.

In addition, Cohen points to the well-thought-out design details, high-end chronograph movements and top-grade materials used throughout the line to create, as he puts it, "a very rich character."

"The straps are exceptional both in materials used plus the ease in which they can be changed instantly to allow for different looks from one watch head to another," Cohen said.

Beyond this, racing textiles such as carbon fiber, and finishes CT Scuderia has developed into its designs mimic those found in the most luxurious motorcycles and high-end cars.

"For example," Cohen said, "this Baselworld, we introduced a new unique stainless steel black fusion finishing that was created to match the look of the cast iron heads found in Triumph motorcycle engines and sports cars such as Ferrari and Lamborghini."

According to Cohen, the brand intends to keep distribution limited to top-tier jewelers and watch retailers, like the accounts that carry it today.

"Our intent is to remain special for those carrying the line and to avoid the pitfalls of diverted goods so prevalent these days when brands are over distributed," Cohen said.

"We'd like our accounts to know we care about their business with us and would like them to earn their full margins."



By Logan Hannen



IN DEFENSE OF HOMAGE WATCHES

In the horological community, there seems to be a cuss word that is so repugnant and disrespectful that people tremble to even say it. That word is “homage.” Before I go any further, allow me to define what I consider to be the difference between a “homage watch” and a watch that pays homage to something else. A homage watch, to me, is a watch that rather shamelessly copies the design of a more well-known (and usually more expensive) timepiece in almost exact one-to-one ratio, or at least close enough that until you see a different name on the dial, you wouldn’t know it wasn’t the more well-known piece. Plenty of watches, however, pay homage to watches that have come before but are no longer around. In my experience, this tends to happen within the brands that are being paid homage to, borrowing styling cues from old models that are long since discontinued. Sometimes you’ll find other brands dipping their toes into these waters, but people tend not to throw too much of a fit over borrowing one or two little stylistic details from a more well-established piece.

With that much settled, the next logical question is this: what is the big deal? As long as no copywriting or patent laws have been broken through these “homage” watches, then what’s the harm? To many people, the harm is obvious: if someone can get their hands on a watch that is almost exactly modeled after a Rolex Submariner, but with say, Steinhart’s name on the dial instead, for a fraction of the price, then that must be taking business away from Rolex. (Now, I sincerely doubt Rolex is strapped for cash, but I’ve got no evidence to support that rather cynical viewpoint). I can understand the thinking behind this, and I hate the idea of knockoff anything since it just seems so slimy and parasitic to me.

There is, however, one fatal flaw with this line of thinking. When

I bought my Steinhart Ocean One GMT with the Red/Blue (or “Pepsi”) bezel, I thought that I would never feel the need to own the Rolex equivalent. At 42mm, it fits beautifully on my wrist for a sports watch, and the heft of the thing when I picked it up for the first time blew my mind. It was my first ETA powered piece, and the thing runs like a champ. In my head, the roughly \$500 I paid for it not only justified the quality of the piece, but seemed far more reasonable than the \$8,000 asking price of the steel model, and the nearly \$25,000 for the new white gold variant of the Rolex equivalent. As a certain British YouTuber might suggest, I was “chuffed to bits” with it.

But the strangest thing happened; after about two months of wearing the watch nearly every day, I began to lust after the Blue/Black (or so-called “Batman”) bezel version of the GMT Master II. I knew Steinhart didn’t make one, and wasn’t content with the idea of a simple bezel insert swap since the GMT hand would be the wrong color and it would bother my OCD a bit too much, and started to realistically consider the idea that I would one day need to own that bloody watch. After the shock wore off, I began to think about this in depth, and could only derive a few reasons this would be the case.

I knew, realistically, that Steinhart was a sincere jump in quality from, say, Parnis, which was an option I had considered when I first thought about the Batman GMT. I could justify the Steinhart homage because it was plenty of watch in its own right, but I couldn’t derive anything else that might measure up to that level for the money in terms of Batman GMT homages. It took me a little bit longer to reconcile the idea that I loved the Rolex for a different reason than just the aesthetics, and I completely blame John Mayer.

His episode of Hodinkee’s ‘Talking Watches’ is one of my favorite



HOMAGE WATCH

ONE THAT APES THE LOOK OF A MORE FAMOUS EXISTING TIMEPIECE — SOMETIMES VINTAGE, SOMETIMES CONTEMPORARY — BUT SELLS FOR A FRACTION OF THE PRICE OF ITS INSPIRATION. HOMAGE WATCHES SHOULD NOT BE CONFUSED WITH FAKES OR REPLICAS.

things ever, for a pretty big handful of reasons (not least among them, he introduced me to the Patek 5970G, which has since become my favorite piece of all time from a visual perspective). Hearing him talk about the Batman GMT cleared up what confusion I still had about my infatuation with the watch. He called it the “greatest modern movement that Rolex makes,” and after researching the difference between the GMT function of the Rolex compared to my other GMTs, I finally saw what John was talking about. I’m driven by two very distinct aspects of watches, and it’s a pretty even split between the aesthetic qualities of the watch and the mechanics that go into the movement. This probably explains why I’m so endlessly fascinated by perpetual calendars, but that’s another article entirely.

The entire process of thinking the Steinhart would satiate that craving for the GMT got me to really stop and consider the world of homage watches. In a way, they almost offer the most control for a consumer possible. I love the GMT, all around, but I think it visually works better in 42mm. I love the 40mm, don’t get me wrong, but I’ve got big wrists, so 42mm is my sweet spot for sport watches in general. When a quality homage can give a consumer the same style, but with or without a feature of the original piece that that consumer deems unnecessary or unwanted, then they have succeeded in getting someone a mechanical watch where they otherwise may not have bought one. They also offer flexibility; should I ever be so lucky to be able to spend upwards of five or six figures on a watch, I probably won’t be going after a Paul Newman Daytona with it. Knowing that brands like Alpha or Steinhart produce an homage to it presents the consumer with a good way to get the visual presence of the watch, but without the price tag. Granted, the Alpha homage isn’t the greatest

quality in the world, and the current version of the Steinhart is a sort of outrageous 18 mm thick, but the option is still there.

To me, homage watches really have two key functions; they allow potential buyers to “test drive” the look of a more expensive watch to determine if they like the visual presence of the thing, and they also allow consumers to get the look of a more expensive piece when they simply have no interest in anything other than the look. This last function, though shallow, is grossly undervalued among the horological community. There is simply a certain point where we all exhibit a bit of brand snobbery; I am guilty of it myself with brands like Patek and Lange. I’ve never owned a piece from either company, and very well may never, but some of their designs are sacred to me. However, I’ll be the last person to give someone a hard time for wearing a Seiko 5 SNKK47 (which is an indisputable Nautilus homage, as far as I’m concerned). Why? Because I want to own one myself. I think the Nautilus is a timeless, really cool design that is one of the most iconic of all time, but I have no interest in owning one because my interest in that piece ends with the aesthetics. I’d be an idiot to deny the quality difference between a Patek Philippe and a Seiko 5, but I want that Patek quality from a grand complication, not a sports watch. If you hate dress watches, and you think the Aquanaut is the coolest watch on the face of the planet, then go and buy one! Wear it to death, resurrect it, and do it all over again. Beyond anything else, this hobby is fundamentally about you, as a person, wearing something that you enjoy and find comfortable. Everything else is just noise. When you learn to tune that out and get down to the meat and bone of horology, you’ll be amazed just how little the opinions of others influence your buying habits and, by extension, how much you really enjoy this weird passion we all share.



A Decade of **DEEP DIVING**

DEEP BLUE Celebrates Its
Ten Year Anniversary

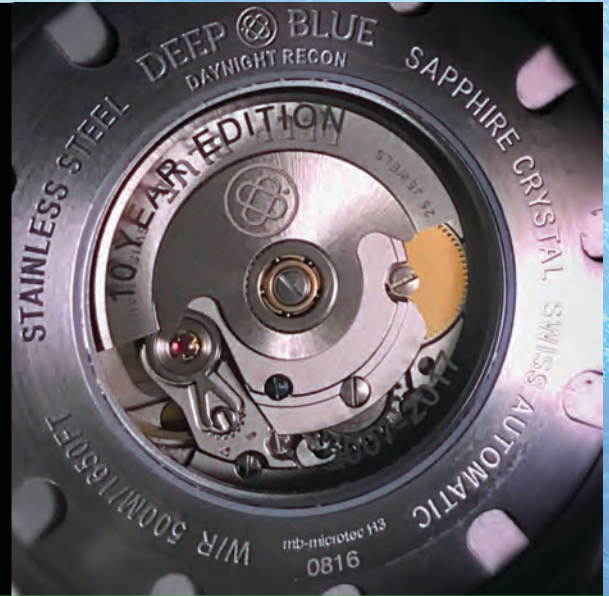


When Deep Blue Watches was founded in 2007, no one could foresee that it would develop a near cult status in today's watch-making world, due, in no small part, to its regular use of tritium tube gas technology that ensures supreme legibility in low-light situations. Fast forward a decade and this New York City-based company has proven itself again and again with its affordable dive watches that blend high quality and good value. An industry leader when it comes to professional grade dive watches, Deep Blue prides itself on producing robust and sturdy dive watches that are reliable and functional with a modern, clean aesthetic.

To celebrate its tenth anniversary this year, Deep Blue has introduced two new commemorative dive watches. The Master 2000 Diver is a Swiss automatic diver offered in a variety of striking

color options that range from the more classic black dial and blue hands model to bolder versions that include bright orange hands and accents or eye-catching blue dials and bezels. The robust 46mm stainless steel case (also available in a bold all-black PVD model) houses the tried and true Swiss automatic ETA 2824-2 movement. Water-resistant to 2,000 meters the watch is fitted with an antireflective sapphire crystal and a 120 click uni-directional rotating bezel. The bold ceramic bezel, luminous hands and markers, recessed helium release valve and screw-down crown and caseback are all classic Deep Blue features. The watch comes on a matching stainless steel bracelet with push-button deployment clasp. Produced in a limited edition of 1,000 pieces in all colors, the Master 2000 Diver ranges from \$1,199 to \$1,399.







DAYNIGHT RECON T-100 TRITIUM DIVER

Deep Blue's second commemorative model is the DayNight Recon T-100 Tritium Diver 10-year anniversary edition. This Swiss-made diver comes in a 45mm stainless steel case featuring a ceramic 120-click unidirectional rotating bezel. Featuring a black or blue wave dial with the brand's famed Tritium Tube technology, the DayNight Recon is powered by an ETA 2824-2 automatic movement and ensures water resistance to 500 meters. Retail is \$1,499.

EDOX

Revisiting a design from 1961, Edox's Delfin brings a bit of retro diver into the future. Limited to only 300 pieces, the Edox Delfin Fleet 1650 Limited Edition adds shoulders to the round case to recall the original flow of the design without seeming out of date. Easy to read and water resistant to 20atm, the Fleet 1650 is built as solid as it looks and not afraid of a day's work – above or under water. Retail price for the steel edition is \$1,725, while the warmth of a bronze case runs right up against our own vertical price limit of \$2,400 (It's actually \$2,500 but I really like the bronze and wanted to show it.) Inside beats an automatic Swiss mechanical that Edox refers to as the caliber 88.





SQUALE

In another watchmaking blast from the past, Squaler rebirths an original model from their 1970's collection in subdued tones. Rated to an amazing 60atm, a domed sapphire crystal covers the brown dial skirted by a black and orange enamel bezel. The 44mm stainless case has an offset screw-down crown at 4 o'clock recessed into the steel case. Inside is the vetted ETA 2824-2 automatic mechanical movement protected by a screw-down stainless steel back. The watch also features an aerated brown leather strap with retro inspired stitched "tie-offs" near the lugs. One rare feature for Squaler is that this bezel can be removed by loosening the 4 screws on perimeter of the bezel. This allows for easy maintenance and cleaning any debris that might interfere with the easy action of the uni-directional bezel. Shown here with the ventilated leather strap, this Squaler diver is a great value at \$1,290 at

www.longislandwatches.com



ANONIMO

Whether or not you consider Anonimo the cousin to or bastard brother of the more renowned Panerai brand is up to you. Both were originals brought to life by designer Dino Zei, and both are fine watch brands. The difference is that you can buy four or five Anonimos for the price of a single (typical) Panerai! Whether you choose to argue the minutia or not, Anonimo is an excellent option for maritime inspired design - and considering the fact that the Nautilo retails for under \$2,000, and only 300 of this version will be made, you might want to take one for yourself. Full sized at 44.4mm across, the 200-meter case will dive deeper than you can and will look good doing it. Inside beats a Swiss-made Sellita automatic. Yes it's not an in-house custom developed movement, but it will run as long and as accurately as its more revered cousin that boasts its own "in-house" mechanism.



klokers



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Sturmanskie watches, based in Moscow, holds the distinction of being the first watch in space on the wrist of Yuri Gagarin. As a result, it's not surprising to discover that the company has a long history of providing watches to the Russian military and space programs.

As any recruit will tell you – or those who work in the medical field or in casinos – the military runs on a 24-hour clock and not the 12/12 clock most of us are used to. As a result, to this day, Sturmanskie still builds watches that are true 24-hour military timepieces, meaning the hour hand only goes around once every 24 hours. And the ones they build use an automatic, mechanical movement built by the Vostok Watch and Clock Company of Chistopol, Russia.

Any search for mechanical, 24-hour watches, particularly automatics, will quickly show they are a rare breed. Not many companies still make this type of watch. Let's face it, most people don't have a need for a watch that only tells the time in GMT 24-hour mode. There are quartz offerings out there, but to find what Sturmanskie is offering you really have to hunt or be willing to pay a lot more than they are charging.

The line includes several models, some with very simple dials. But the most interesting are from the Open Space collection, which honors Alexi Leonov, another Russian space pioneer who made the first extravehicular journey. At 42mm, these are modestly sized by today's standards. But the dials are rather striking and etched casebacks offer some Soviet-era inspired art that you won't find on other brands. Crystals are mineral and water resistance acceptable at 10 ATM. There is a date with a magnifier and all come on a leather strap.

If you are an aficionado of true military timepieces, these are worth checking out. They run just under \$600. Sturmanskie is represented by the Detente Watch Group in North America. Find out where to pick one up at www.detentewatches.com

STURMANSKIE







Bronze is the new stainless steel. Or at least it seems that way these days. The latest brand to join the ever-growing list of watch companies bringing bronze-case models to market is Ball. The brand known for their railroad watches, lume and being the first to bring T-100 to the US is joining the bronze club with gusto.

The Engineer Bronze Star is limited to only 3,000 pieces for the world. The sister edition, the Silver Star, will not feature a limited production and is in surgical grade stainless steel.

Billed as a pilot's watch, Ball is building the Bronze Star using top-grade bronze comprised of copper and aluminum and the simple, clean lines of the case should patina beautifully. This no-nonsense approach is mirrored on the dial, where the indicators (in both tritium tubes and Superluminova) are both big, clear and easy to read – a must for any pilot's watch. Both models feature Ball's SpringLOCK and Amortister in-house, anti-shock resistance systems to maintain accuracy in tough conditions. The Star models also include a mu-

metal anti-magnetic shield (which is just a multi-component alloy) that protects the movement from fields up to 80,000 A/m, which will appeal to serious pilots. This, in effect, means the watch can take a pretty sharp hit or fall and can handle being around most any magnet you would encounter in normal life, as long as you don't bring it in with you for an MRI.

The 43 mm case features anti-reflective sapphire crystal and automatic Ball caliber RR1102 movement.

The watch is water resistant to 10 ATM and comes on a calf leather strap for the bronze with a bracelet optional for the silver. The bronze retails for around \$2,300 and the silver \$1,800. The luminosity consists of 14 tritium radio-luminescent tubes for constant illumination with Superluminova on all indicators for an initial pop of increased brightness.

Find out more at www.ballwatch.com.

BALL



SEAGULL

55 years ago Chinese pilots flew the skies of the far east wearing a watch just like this modern re-creation.

This Chinese Airforce chronograph is a manual wind mechanical coveted by era enthusiasts and aviation collectors alike. The updated version of the original has a 38mm polished stainless steel fuselage with a sapphire crystal up front. Powered by a Seagull mechanical movement you may not get the extra polish & decoration you might expect from a Swiss counterpart, but at only \$349 you will get a dependable and fully retro-genic pilot's watch with a Chinese heritage and a column wheel controlled chronograph mechanism within. Available exclusively at www.longislandwatches.com



ARISTO



The gentrified pilot's type boils down to a value argument. Yes you can pay more for the look, and you could also pay less. But the value argument for the German-Made Swiss-powered Aristo is strong. At \$499 fans of large pilot watches get a big 47 mm sandblasted stainless steel case rated to 5atm with an automatic Swiss mechanical inside with an exhibition back. Held in place on your wrist with a riveted leather strap that will only look better as it ages, this Aristo is another great pick for the economical enthusiast. Easy to read, easy to use, and easy to pay for, find yours at www.longislandwatches.com



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VICTORINOX

The new **I.N.O.X. Carbon** from Victorinox is ready for takeoff as part of the Swiss Army flagship collection. The cases carbon resin composite is made of the same material that is used for re-entry protection on space shuttles.

The watch has the classic look that is shared with all Victorinox timepieces. The watch is black, on black, on black with a clean, military look. The optional Para cord strap is a nice touch. The dial is protected by a triple-coated, anti-reflective, sapphire crystal and the case gets additional protection from a removable, translucent grey bumper.

The 43mm watch is hypoallergenic and 20 ATM, making it professional dive quality. The movement is a 715 Swiss Ronda and the dial includes military time in red as a secondary chapter ring. Victorinox has been building watches for the past quarter century and is the maker of the original Swiss Army Knife. The Carbon retails for \$950.

RED, WHITE & BLUE SPECIAL EDITION



TRASER

Traser H3 watches of Switzerland is celebrating its U.S. compatriots with a new multi-colored watch. The special Red, White and Blue Shade edition brings the American flag to life on the dial with tritium, or Trigalight, constant-illumination tubes glowing in the same colors.

Based on the description Traser provides with the watch, you couldn't be blamed for thinking it was something produced by the American Legion rather than a company based in Bern, Switzerland.

"The American Stars & Stripes symbolize unity and strength. It is a source of inspiration and pride all around the world," Traser writes. "(The watch) has been chosen to honor as a special edition the colors of the U.S. flag by lighting them up on the dial. The red stands for hardiness and values. White is for purity and innocence and blue stands for vigilance, perseverance and justice."

The new design remind us of the ties that bind and is also an excellent vehicle for Traser to show off the array of colors it manufactures in tritium-tube technology.

The watch is 45 mm wide, which puts it about average by today's standards for sport watches. The Swiss quartz movement is surrounded by a stainless steel inner core that then is encased in glass-fiber reinforced resin. There is a bi-directional rotating bezel and the dial is protected by an anti-reflective sapphire crystal.

But the stand-out feature of this, or any Traser watch, are the 14 tritium tubes that provide constant illumination. In this case, red, white and blue illumination.

Traser is owned by MB Microtec, which actually manufactures the tubes. Tritium tubes use radio luminescence in laser-sealed glass tubes where tritium constantly activates the luminous material inside. As a result, the watch does not need "charging" of any kind as is necessary with most other forms of luminous material. Additionally, it won't fade an hour or so later. The tubes stay constantly lit for visibility in any lighting condition.

Tritium has a half-life of twelve and a half years, so as year 25 approaches they will have lost some of their luster. But they can be replaced.



LUMINOX

Luminox knows how to look good in black. And the brand's latest Carbon Seal 3800 Series shows that it's watches can even look good when they are black and blue—and not from a bar fight. These rugged numbers are built to hold up in tough conditions.

No, the latest version takes advantage of the cool colors of ice blue from the tritium tubes of MB Microtec, offset by orange tubes. The build is of a carbon compound that is three times lighter than titanium, but still offer strength and scratch resistance. The 46 mm case is 300 meter water resistant, so it is above professional dive quality.

Options include a 24 mm rubber strap or a carbon compound bracelet. Luminox still garners the Swiss Made label, even with the more stringent requirements and this example comes with the Ronda 715 quartz movement. The uni-directional, rotating bezel surrounds the sapphire crystal and protects a total of 15 tritium tubes for constant illumination in any lighting conditions. There are three executions, including a 500-piece limited edition (on the bracelet) and one style with an olive green dial.

Visit www.whatever.com for more info.





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By Megan Livolsi



A close-up, angled shot of a watch case, likely a diver's watch, showing the engraved text "RAFAL GAR" and "WE COME UNSEEN". The watch has a dark, possibly black, case with a brushed metal bezel. The background is dark and out of focus.

RAFAL GAR
WE COME UNSEEN

THE BALLAST TRALFAGAR



Style and function come together in the new Trafalgar model from Ballast, an up-and-coming watch brand from the U.K. that draws its inspiration from the stories of World War II naval submarines and the men who bravely operated them.

Equipped with a patented bezel control mechanism that is used not only to wind the mainspring of the automatic movement and but also to set both the time and date with ease, the Trafalgar features a bold face and beautiful detailing, along with interchangeable leather straps. The 46.5mm stainless steel-plated case houses a modified Japanese Miyota movement at its core that will keep the watch running strong for up to 40 hours.





Water-resistant to 100 meters, each watch is designed in a style reminiscent of the exposed mechanics of the operating system inside a submarine. An inner ring is carefully stamped, polished and inlaid inside the case while the Royal Navy's Submarine Service motto "We Come Unseen" is inscribed on the side of each case at 9 o'clock. Each component from the geared levels of the bezel to the oversized indexes and hardened mineral crystal has been carefully considered. Each piece has been engineered to fit both technically and aesthetically. Case in point: the date and time are changed by unlocking the right hand crown and turning the bezel of the watch.

Ballast's Valiant model offers a more sturdy and robust silhouette featuring a custom-molded silicon band for ease of wear and a sportier profile. The large bold case likewise boasts the brand's canteen crown lock mechanism. Prices for both the Trafalgar and Valiant run between \$400-\$490.



FOR GOING

TO EXTREMES

Following a successful 11th year presenting at Baselworld, Vostok-Europe of Lithuania has a several exciting things in store for 2017.

"We have been revamping our entire catalog over the past months," says Igor Zubovskij, the company's managing director. "By the end of 2017 we will have developed roughly fifty new models over a twenty-four month period."

The brand, whose slogan is "For Going to Extremes", builds mostly dive and sport watches. Every watch comes with a history and a story, such as the Lunokhod II, named for a Soviet lunar rover, or the Caspian Sea Monster, named for the crazy looking ground effect plane.

Both of those lines have seen significant changes in the past few months, with more to come this year. There will be a new multi-function line of the Lunokhod 2 and the Caspian Sea Monster is getting a complete makeover.

Another bit of exciting news for VE this year is that it will be the first non-Seiko brand to use the new Seiko YN85 power reserve movement. This will power the new GAZ Limo line coming out this fall.

Vostok-Europe has become sort of a testing ground for Seiko Epson. It was the first brand outside SII to use the NE88 column-wheel chronograph and the first to use the new multi-function YM86 movements, which will be in the new Lunokhod 2 models.



The return of the attainable

7750 Chronograph



The U.S.-based Bernhardt Watch Company is bringing the Le Jour line of watches back to the shores of North America after a 30-year hiatus. The brand started out small in the 1960s manufacturing Swiss mechanical chronographs using Valjoux movements. The watches were sought after by collectors due to their comparably affordable pricing, durability and designs inspired by auto racing, sailing, yachting and aviation.

Like many similar brands, Le Jour didn't survive the quartz revolution of the 1980s and faded into obscurity. But the name lived on among collectors as a brand remembered for professional quality at attainable price points. Now that the market for strong mechanical watches has resurged, the brand has been reborn.

All the current models are clean, professional chronographs using ETA 7750 calibers and top-quality integrated bracelets. The bracelets are all-hand polished with attention paid to each link before assembly. Prices start at \$2,000. The watches incorporate anti-reflective sapphire crystals and 200-meter water resistance in their cases which are just under 43mm. All are surgical grade stainless steel. Find out more at www.lejourwatches.ch



Bright Fire from the Nostalgia Collection. Red abalone shell inlaid in maple wood. Simple and elegant. Time required: 2-3 hours.



CELESTE



Golden Ochre horse is 21 pieces of abalone shell tinted golden ochre, inlaid in mother-of-pearl. A clear stone serves as the dial marker at 12 and also as the horse's eye. Time required to make the dial is 8-12 hours.

Celeste Wong will never look at hardwood floors the same again. And how that relates to the stunning watches she creates may be a head scratcher at first, but it becomes all too clear when she tells you the hurdles she overcame to make her visions a reality.

"It took more than two years to take the Nostalgia model from idea to reality," Celeste shared with *About Time*. The Nostalgia is the first watch she created for her Springfield, Oregon-based line of aptly named Celeste watches. "I had this beautiful watch built with abalone and wood and then the first time it rained it stopped working."

You might think it is because she didn't understand the importance of integrating proper water resistance into a watch, but that is not the case. And that brings us back to the hardwood floors. As anyone who has ever installed them knows, you have to leave a gap between the wall and the first line of planks. This is because all wood expands and contracts as humidity and temperature change.

"So, that is exactly what happened to my first watch with a partially wooden dial," Celeste said. "Then I went back to the drawing board and found fifty ways not to stabilize wood until I finally found a process that worked." A process, by the way, she has no intention of sharing with anyone else.

Celeste Wong is an engineer by trade, a long-time lover of horology by way of tuna (more on that later) and an artist by passion. About three years ago she set out on a journey to bring all those

things together in a new watch brand that brings new meaning to the word "handmade."

"The brand started out as something for women, because it is so hard to find a really beautiful woman's watch," Celeste told us. "At least what my idea of beautiful is. I'm not a fan of bling." But now, Celeste says she doesn't put any gender on her watches and some of them have far more male buyers than female.

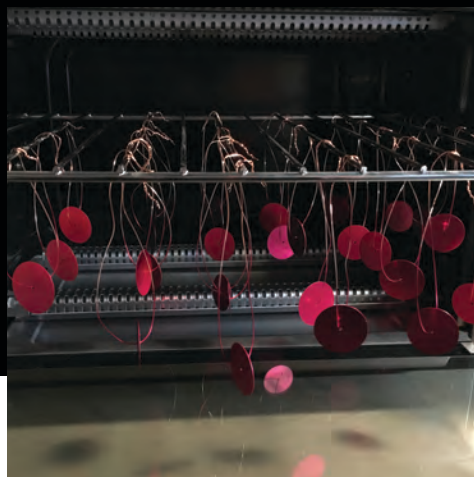
Her watches incorporate imagery that run from geometric shapes to detailed inlaid constructions of animals from sea turtles to horses to fish – the latter being the centerpiece of her Hook 'Em collection. The Joy Ride collection even features a 1960s era VW van.

Incorporating wood, abalone shell and mother of pearl, each watch is a mini-masterpiece and clearly a labor of love for Celeste. They come in 35mm and 38mm cases, though she is considering larger models, and all use Swiss Ronda quartz engines. For Celeste, it is more about the art than it is about the mechanics of timekeeping. Though she does have plans to offer an Eterna automatic line in the future as well.

Celeste hand-assembles every unit herself with the real work being poured into the creation of the dial. The journey begins in her imagination with the imagery she desires for the dial and from there to the computer and then on to a laser-cutting machine to create the delicate pieces that will become the dial's art work. The base is a standard, plain brass dial, which she colors with a ceramic electro-

Sea Turtle. Fifteen pieces of abalone shell tinted five different colors at inlaid. A clear stone serves as the dial marker at 12. Time required: 5-6 hours.





plating process for a background hue.

Once the elements of the design are laser cut, she then adheres them to the dial with a proprietary system she developed herself. Some models have indicators on the chapter ring and others only have the art filling the entire dial.

Celeste even hand sews vegetable-dyed straps to offer a wide range of eco-friendly colors to her customers. Her son sometimes helps with the stitching. None of the assembly is farmed out. Celeste

applies the hands, and puts all the workings into the sapphire crystal covered cases and attaches the case backs. Everything is done painstakingly by hand. A complex dial like the mother-of-pearl horse can take 8 to 12 hours to create. Astonishing when you consider her prices are all under \$500.

"My watches are for anyone who loves a beautiful watch," she says. "Though I have found that people who are interested in a watch keeping good time prefer the designs that include timekeeping indicators."



Mother of Pearl horse. 21 pieces of mother of pearl, inlaid in black abalone shell. A clear stone serves as the dial marker at 12 and a blue stone as the horse's eye. Time required: 8-12 hours



Howl. Mother of Pearl wolf and moon inlaid in Mahogany stained maple. Clear stones serve as dial markers. Time required: 4-6 hours



Royal Purple from the Radiance Collection. Mother of Pearl overlaid on a purple ceramic dial. Time required: 2-3 hours

For Celeste, however, it's no coincidence that she decided to make watch dials the medium for her art.

"I have been in love with watches and clocks for as long as I can remember," she says. "When I was seven years old I begged my Mom for a Charlie Tuna watch (told you we would get back to the tuna)." Celeste says she ate tuna for months to save up enough labels to get the watch.

"I loved that watch," she said.

When deciding what to do with her life in the 1980s, watch-making school wasn't really an option, so she studied engineering instead. Then around 2008 her love of horology resurfaced and she began feverishly collecting vintage timepieces and tinkering with all aspects of them. She amassed a collection of watchmaking tools and dove into every aspect of what makes watches tick. Then roughly three years ago she brought her passion for nature, all things nautical and watchmaking together to create the Celeste line.

"I wanted something organic and crafted by hand so that each piece would be unique and inspired," she says.

Celeste primarily sells her watches at arts festivals but is looking to garner the attention of the watch collectors market, especially those who are looking for something truly different on the wrist. Find out more about Celeste and her watches at www.celestewatch.com.



REACTOR

Reactor watches has teamed up with famed marine life artist Robert Wyland to create a special limited-edition watch that is the first from the brand to use the ionized multi-color effect on the case.

The Wyland custom Poseidon uses the same case configuration as the other watches from this model line, but with a stand-out look. Wyland calls it a “luxury sport watch” and the name seems to fit this bold timepiece.

The watch utilizes Reactor's trademarked Never Dark system, which combines tritium illumination with Super-luminova so the dial stays visible in any lighting condition. Tritium tubes utilize radio-luminescence to constantly agitate the luminous material inside laser-sealed glass tubes to provide illumination all the time without any charging necessary.

The beefy 48mm case is 17mm thick, so this is a substantial timepiece on the wrist. Powered by the Miyota 9015 three-hand automatic movement, the watch is a thousand-meter diver with a 42-hour power reserve and a 4.5mm-thick sapphire crystal. That crystal is thicker than the links on most high-quality bracelets.

The aqueous blue ionized plating on the all-titanium case certainly evokes all things marine. The watch comes with a signed, original mini-abstract watercolor painting from Wyland's coral reef color series. Only 225 pieces are being built so it will be unlikely you'll run into anyone else who has one of these on their wrist.

With 180 grams of total weight and 22mm width at the buckle, you will know you are wearing this one, even if it is in the lighter titanium. There is nothing small about this timepiece. Find out more at www.reactorwatch.com or www.wylandstore.com. The Wyland edition is just under \$2,500.



Wyland custom Poseidon
in package


BRILLIER


The phrase “making the trains run on time” has become synonymous with the idea of a well-oiled and properly functioning system. So, it’s only logical that trains and train travel would be deeply associated with watches and clocks that keep hyper-accurate time. Beyond this, there is a look and feel to a railroad watch that makes them almost instantly recognizable and distinguished from other timekeepers.

In that tradition, Brillier watches of Arizona has released a the second chapter in its Americans series to celebrate the American railroad, with designs that harken back to the “golden spike” that united the Union and Central Pacific railroads in Utah in 1869.

The dials of the two models are designed to hold the Railroad Standard for timekeeping devices. This includes easy-to-read, upright Arabic numerals and calibrated minute divisions of the five minute and minute divisions. Keeping the time up to the minute is critical to the success of any rail system, up and down the line.

The Americana collection draws inspiration from several American-made watch brands from the early days of the system. There are two distinct dial configurations. The Eastern Standard edition features the Montgomery dial configuration, which incorporates dominate Arabic numbers on the chapter ring with an outer ring that divides all 60 minutes with a red numeral at every five-minute interval. The Montgomery dial was favored by railroad workers of the early 1900s due to its easy-to-read configuration.

The other style, dubbed the Western Standard, utilizes the Ferguson configuration, which moves the 60-minute divisions to the dominant position, with the standard 12-hour dial being fully enclosed within it. This is done by way of a double-sunken, ceramic dial. The Western Standard sports blued, moon hands.

Both collections are limited to 100 pieces per dial and case combination. They are both 43mm in diameter and come with a handmade, genuine calf-leather strap produced in the United States. Both models use the Ronda Swiss parts 1069 quartz movement to maintain split-second accuracy. All Brillier watches are hand-assembled in the U.S.



Hook + Gaff watches don't come out of left field. Their dials and cases are classic sportsmen style. But they do only go left – in that all their watches are lefties with the crown on the opposite side of the traditional timepiece.

They do this for comfort as their entire line is built for rugged use in outdoor activities. The newest model, the Fleetmaster, is now the flagship and the first model from the company to offer a mechanical movement. The engine is the Swiss ETA 2836 modified to offer GMT dual time function. The 42mm case is surgical-grade stainless steel with a genuine alligator strap or an optional bracelet. With 200-meter water resistance, the watch meets the standards of a professional dive quality with Superluminova on all hands and

indicators. The Fleetmaster is quite limited: only 150 pieces will be made.

Hook + Gaff is an American company based in the Carolinas. Their entire philosophy and watch catalog is centered on the idea of offering watches that are rugged enough for the field but still elegant enough to wear out on the town. They keep their profiles slim but the features enough horological meat for the sportsman who wants something that looks good on the wrist.

All the watches are hand assembled in the U.S. and only use titanium or 316L stainless steel cases and sapphire crystals. The Fleetmaster starts just under \$2,000. Find out more at

www.hookandgaff.com.

HOOK + GAFF





By Loren Sciorba, The Time Bum



In the summer of 2014, I reviewed Manchester Watch Works' first offering, the Flagship. Douglas Kim, the man behind Manchester, had sent me the prototype in anticipation of his Kickstarter launch. The Flagship was a 38mm automatic tool watch an offbeat, left-right combination of Roman and Arabic numerals and a chunky case that I described as looking like part of a Pratt & Whitney jet engine. It was a promising effort, but it had some unresolved design elements, and it ultimately failed to fund.

Fast forward to April 2017. I was at a get together with a group of local watch enthusiasts, and one of my fellow watch nerds leaned over his impressive collection of Hublot, Audemars Piaget, and rare boutique divers to pepper me with questions about the new Manchester Battenkill. He liked what he saw and was astounded at its sub-\$300 price. "You know," he said as he turned the sleek, mid-sized trench watch over in his hands, "I don't usually do inexpensive micro brands, but this is a really nice watch."

It was not the first time I had seen someone express such surprising admiration for a Manchester Watch Works piece. Doug has

made impressive strides in the past three years, continually refining his designs. Each new watch stands alone as a distinct piece that expresses his values in its own unique way. Best of all, his prices have remained extremely competitive. It is an almost irresistible combination for someone as thrifty as The Time Bum.

Doug is a life-long enthusiast who started collecting and tinkering with watches as a kid. As his collection grew, he learned to repair, modify, and build them. Eventually, he was no longer satisfied with assembling off-the-shelf components and set out to design a timepiece of his own. "My watch fascination is not just for fashion, but for the remarkable engineering marvel of a machine that can keep accurate time without batteries but with springs and gears," Doug explained, "and they can go with you under water, into space, up mountains, and into jungles but, best of all, they can be worn on your wrist."

Manchester Watch Works is named for Doug's hometown of Manchester, Vermont, and he has kept that link through the two-tone, twin-diamond logo. The upper section represents Manchester's "M" as well as Vermont's Green Mountain range. The lower section forms a



MANCHESTER WATCH WORKS





"W" for "Watch Works" as it depicts the mountains' reflection on a lake. It is a clever, balanced design in which every aspect is significant. Each model name pays tribute to Vermont's history, landmarks, or folklore.

Over the years, he has created eight distinct models, not counting variants within the ranges. A 1970s sports watch called the Equinox is currently in production, and Doug is putting the finishing touches on the Beluga, a 500M diving watch with a patented bezel indicator that should be announced this summer. His watches are all small-batch limited editions, so when the production run is complete, that model is gone forever as Doug moves on to the next project. The current line-up consists of the Morgan racing chronograph, the Mansfield vintage pilot, and the Battenkill trench watch.

The Morgan (\$290) is named for the Vermont state horse, and although the animal is featured on the case back, the watch's style is more automotive than equestrian. It has a handsome, chiseled cushion case similar to that of the Zenith El Primero Vintage 1969, measuring 40mm wide, 48.5mm long, and 11.8mm thick with its tall, beveled sapphire crystal. The watch features a brushed surface and a slim, polished chamfer running its length. Its blunt, angular lugs are drilled for easy spring bar removal.

An Isaswiss 8371C quartz movement provides a 1/5 second sweep hand, small seconds at 3 o'clock, 30-minute register at 9 o'clock, and a 6 o'clock register for hours elapsed. The vintage race-timer look carries through the slate finished dials and sun-ray registers.

There are four versions in the range: the all black "Black Panda," silver and blue "Blue-eyed Panda," a white and brown "Brown-eyed Panda," and a blue and white "Morgan Monaco." That last model takes its name from the Heuer Monaco, specifically the vibrant early-2000s reissue. To my eye, the Morgan Monaco's rich, shimmering blue dial makes it the most striking of the group. All four models have a date window option and BGW9 SuperLuminova on the hands and markers. Perhaps my favorite detail is the Morgan's diamond-quilted leather strap. It is a luxuriant touch that evokes a 60s sports car feel with being obvious or kitschy.

The Battenkill and the Mansfield (\$270) are the latest incarnations in Manchester's trench watch series. These watches were inspired by the pocket watches converted into wristlets by soldiers in World War One, and Doug has stayed true to that style while imparting a contemporary spin on this very traditional design.

The 316L stainless steel case is 40mm wide and about 11mm thick, which I consider to be the most versatile size for a man's watch. The bezel and back have radiused edges, and the crystal is slightly domed, creating a soft, familiar look. The lugs are thicker than you might find on an original trench watch but they are proportionate with the case and hide a conventional 20mm spring bar. A signed, coin edged crown at 4 o'clock completes the update. The overall effect is clean and contemporary, although still firmly rooted in tradition.

The movement is a Miyota 8245 automatic, a sturdy, reliable, 21 jewel unit with a small seconds counter, oscillating at 21.6k bph. Nor-



mally, this movement has the small seconds offset in the lower right quadrant of the dial, but here it has been rotated to place the seconds at 6 and the crown at 4 o'clock. This is not a common configuration for a wire lug style, but it works well and allows a larger crown than a 3 o'clock position would. Indeed, the Mansfield's crown could stand to be a touch larger as its position makes it tricky to pinch when unscrewing. It is a minor complaint, eliminated on Battenkill by a larger 6mm crown.

Trench watches surely endured harsh conditions, but with their unsealed cases and conventional glass, they were positively fragile compared to most modern watches. The Mansfield's and Battenkill's are better prepared for life in the field. They are fitted with scratch-resistant, anti-reflective coated sapphire crystals and the screw-down crowns, and case backs ensure 100 meters water resistance.

Named for the highest peak in Vermont, the Mansfield draws heavily from the Zenith Pilot, or more specifically, from the early 20th-century Zenith cockpit clocks that preceded them. It features a railroad track index and oversized Arabic markers in the heavy Gothic typeface that was common among pre-WW2 military timepieces. Silver sword hands and a silver small seconds register with a red needle complete the look. C3 SuperLuminova lights the hands and markers. The case is a stealthy matte black PVD, secured with an appropriately rugged tan suede strap and a matching signed buckle.

The Battenkill harkens back to the same era as the Mansfield, but its theme is more motoring than martial. For this model, Doug found

his muse in Depression-era dashboard clocks. The case is brightly polished and sports a tan leather strap with white stitching and a signed buckle. Its white dagger hands, vintage SuperLuminova, and textured small seconds on the black dial are charmingly delicate when compared to the bolder pilot's watch. Even the logo is a touch smaller. To my eye, the Battenkill is perfectly proportioned, which goes far to project an image of quality beyond what one might expect from such a reasonably priced watch.

One of the nicer aspects of buying from a micro brand is that you often get to learn a bit about the people behind it. Doug is active on the Watchuseek Watch Forums, taking questions and soliciting input on new products. He also cultivates customer loyalty by offering a 10 per cent discount for returning customers and donating at least 1 percent of his annual profits to St. Jude Children's Hospital and/or the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

Manchester Watch Works has established a solid track record in a very short time and shows no sign of slowing down. In addition to the forthcoming Beluga diver, Doug is also planning the fourth and final watch in his Iconik series, each of which has offered a contemporary spin on a timeless classic.

To order a Manchester for yourself and to keep abreast of new editions, visit **ManchesterWatchWorks.com**, and follow him on Facebook (**facebook.com/mww802**) and Instagram (**@manchesterwatchworks**).



MINUTEMAN

Proudly assembled in the U.S. by Minuteman Watch Co., each watch is individually serial numbered and houses an automatic mechanical movement inside the 42mm PVD coated (\$499) or non PVD (\$469) stainless steel case. Water resistant to 20atm, this Minuteman is tough enough to take abuse and keep running. A double domed sapphire crystal with interior anti-reflective coating protects the luminous accented dial and hands.

TIME FOR VIENNA

NORMALZEIT

VIENNA
SINCE 1907

NORMALZEIT AUTOMATIC
• 216L Stainless Steel
• 40 x 40 x 11mm
• Cal. Seiko NH35A
• 24 Jewels
• 41 Hour Power Reserve
• WR 50M
• Limited Edition



NORMALZEIT QUARTZ
• 316L Stainless Steel
• 36 x 36 x 10mm
• Cal. Ronda Swiss Quartz
• K1 Mineral Crystal
• 3-Year Battery Life
• WR 50M
• REQ 36 / Open Edition

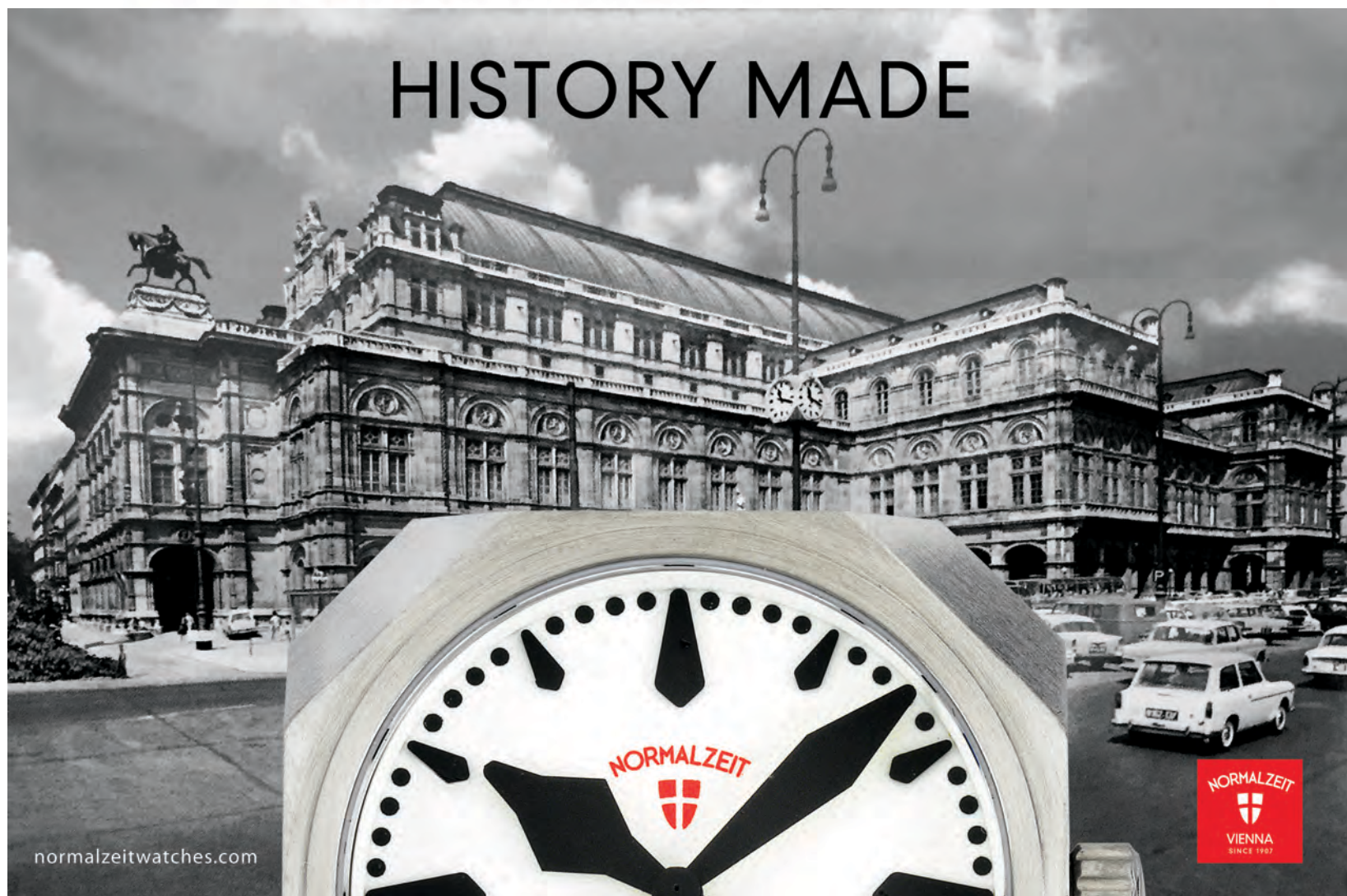


The new limited edition NORMALZEIT wrist watch is inspired by the legendary landmark clock, the "WIENER WÜRFELUHR". Since having been installed in 1907 it publicly displays synchronized standard time on 78 posts across the Metropole of two million.

For more information contact: normalzeitwatches.com



HISTORY MADE



normalzeitwatches.com

NORMALZEIT

VIENNA
SINCE 1907

By Megan Livolsi

The latest Casio G-SHOCK Creations

SHOCK EFFECT

Casio set the standard for toughness when it introduced the G-SHOCK to the world in 1983. Over the years the brand has continued to raise the bar with each new G-SHOCK creation.

The popular G-LIDE series was recently enhanced with new models that offer the ultimate in urban style. Featuring a colorful marbled pattern, the first collection pairs ultimate toughness with urban, yet surf-ready style, all for \$160. The second G-LIDE series features a monochromatic color scheme of black and white. Available in all white, all black or a two-tone model with a white face and black band, the watch retails for \$130. Equipped with the brand's legendary water, magnetic and shock resistance, both 55mm models feature a case, bezel and band made of resin and a scratch-resistant mineral crystal. A wide range of functions include a thermometer, world time, moon data, tide graph, countdown timer, five daily alarms, full auto-calendar, hourly time signal and LED light in addition to analog and digital timekeeping.



G-LIDE





Casio recently expanded its Master of G line with the launch of its Desert Camouflage Series, a collection that features a new design inspired by camouflage uniforms worn in the desert. The series includes the MUDMAN, RANGEMAN, and MUDMASTER series, all of which exude military toughness with black bezels, light brown lettering and orange accents on the dials. All three watches feature Tough Solar power – a rechargeable battery with a large power storage capacity that supports the stable operation of various functions with high electricity consumption – as well as Multiband 6 atomic timekeeping, which enables the watch to receive time calibration radio signals from up to six transmitters worldwide. Each watch also boasts superior water and shock resistance. Both the MUDMAN and MUDMASTER feature mud-resistant cases and reverse LCD displays, while the RANGEMAN maintains a standard LCD display. The MUDMAN (\$350) features a Twin Sensor (compass/thermometer) and a carbon fiber insert band, while the RANGEMAN (\$450) features a Triple Sensor (altimeter/barometer, compass and thermometer) and carbon fiber insert band. The MUDMASTER (\$800) has the same Triple Sensor technology paired with a sapphire crystal.

Master Of G Desert Camouflage





Two new models have been added to the Master G Series, in a vintage-inspired black and gold color scheme. The new GULFMASTER AND MUDMASTER models feature a classic look that pairs well with both casual and professional wear. The gold accents on both models, which instantly dress up any look, are designed to have a weathered look to give it a uniquely vintage feel. As you can guess, these new models are also designed to withstand extreme conditions, featuring a twin sensor technology that can detect the user's location and changes in temperature. The bezel on the 53.4mm GULFMASTER (\$300) recalls a ship's porthole that's been exposed to wind and rain, while the 55.3mm MUDMASTER (\$320) takes on the appearance of tools that have been polished by digging in the ground.

G-Shock Master of G



G-Steel



LTD M-TG GPS Hybrid

The ideal timepiece for the active gentleman seeking G-SHOCK's legendary performance and technology but who enjoys the look and feel of a metal timepiece, Casio's latest G-STEEL model features dial colors of black and gold and includes New-brite luminous hands and a stainless steel bezel and band. Equipped with the brand's tough solar technology, the watch features a host of practical functions and retails for \$350.

The final new addition to the Casio G-SHOCK collection is the limited-edition MT-G GPS Hybrid watch, crafted at Casio's Yamagata factory in Japan. This eye-catching timepiece features an ion-plated stainless steel and fine resin case and layered composite band with a dark gray rough blast finish and an anti-glare sapphire crystal. Similar to its predecessors, this solar-powered newcomer comes equipped with GPS satellite radio wave reception and Multiband 6 technology and allows intuitive access to all key functions with Smart Access technology. Equipped with the legendary G-SHOCK technology, the watch boasts a wide range of functions including world time, daily alarm, countdown timer and 12/24 formats, within its bold 54.7mm case. Retail is \$2,100.

By Megan Livolsi

It's Time to Get a Little Crazy



Always one to push the creative envelope, Franck Dubarry brings innovative design to the next level with his Crazy Balls collection. Offered in seemingly countless combinations of colors, metals, materials and precious stones, this eye-catching timepiece features twelve sparkling balls that move around the outer rim of the dial, colliding and ricocheting with every movement of the wrist.

"It creates life in the form of meditation, energy and chaos depending on the movement of the wrist," explains Dubarry. "Meditation is when the 12 balls are inactive; energy when the wrist is more active and the

balls move slowly around the watch and return to their position alongside the indices; and chaos when they spin wildly around before settling down again. All of this functions with a complex magnetic system on the outer section of the dial without it affecting the movement."

A Swiss ETA quartz movement is at the heart of the 42mm stainless steel case, accented in white or black and even available with an 18-karat gold bezel. From clean, crisp white to vivid pink, all black, rich chocolate brown and even a unique denim model, there is truly something for everyone willing to get a little crazy. Retail prices start at \$1,290.

FRANCK DUBARRY'S Crazy Balls Collection





LIMOUSINE ALL TIMER

By Craig Hester

Vostok-Europe, based in Vilnius, Lithuania, had one of its most prolific years in 2016. The company debuted 30 new dials across four model collections. We featured the Energia 2 in our last issue. This time we are bringing you the new GAZ Limo collection, which is called the "All-Timer."

This moniker is primarily due to the YM86 models from this line which include the date, day-of-the-week, month and perpetual calendar with leap year, along with a 24-hour elapsed time chronograph and an alarm. Thus, they consider it to be cover "all times".

Vostok-Europe is actually the first watch company outside of Epson to be allowed to use these multi-function quartz movements, the YM26 and the YM86. The 26 is a world timer watch with two time zones that can be set independently and has an alarm as well.

The watch is based on the GAZ 14 Limo case, which VE has been using since early production models now more than a decade

ago. These examples are all 45 millimeters in diameter and include tritium tube technology from MB Microtech of Switzerland. Tritium tubes are laser sealed glass vials that use radio luminescence to constantly agitate the luminous material so they will be visible all the time, without having to be charged up from another light source.

It's a bit unusual to find tritium on a dressier watch like the GAZ, as most of the time they are used on sport watches. In this case though, the tubes are countersunk below the dial, which does give a smooth look to the execution. The watches come with K1 mineral crystals, ten atmospheres of water resistance, an integrated leather strap and dual layer dials. Prices are in the \$500 to \$700 range.

Vostok-Europe is represented by the Detente Watch Group in North America. Find out more at www.detentewatches.com.



VERSACE ITALIA CHRONOGRAPHS

These men's Versace Italia V1969 VM1002 - VM1005 Chronograph Watches combines bold design with quality features to create a unique timepiece. The bold textured dial and combination brushed and polished metal case make these the perfect timepiece for any occasion. A buckle enclosure offers multiple sizing options and ensures hassle-free wear. Perfect for the fast paced lifestyle of today's man, each V1969 watch ships in a branded gift box and comes with a limited 1-year warranty.



MENS V1969 CHRONOGRAPH WATCH
RETRO DIAL, BLACK RUBBER STRAP

VM1005 Chronograph Watch

MENS V1969 CHRONOGRAPH WATCH

BLACK DIAL W/ GOLD ACCENTS,
BLACK RUBBER STRAP
VM1003 Chronograph Watch



MENS V1969 CHRONOGRAPH WATCH

BLACK DIAL W/ GOLD ACCENTS, BLACK RUBBER STRAP
VM1004 Chronograph Watch

REBEL WITH A CAUSE MILITARY-INSPIRED

Chronographs from Rebel Time

What started as a successful Kickstarter campaign in 2016, Brooklyn-based Rebel Time has begun to develop a loyal following of watch enthusiasts in search of stylish, high-quality timepieces at an affordable price point.

Founder Shneur Lakein's passion project grew out of a desire to bring his family's rich history of watchmaking and jewelry design into the present day, using the best locally made products available. Lakein's great-grandfather was a master watchmaker who immigrated to the United States from the Ukraine in 1913. "Each watch is built with a marriage of classic design principles my great grandfather used and modern tailoring from Swiss consultants," explains Lakein.

Inspired by military field and pilot watches, Rebel Time's first collection features bold classic designs with a modern twist, together with reliable movements.

There are four different Rebel models, all priced at about \$250 and all of which feature sapphire crystals and water resistance to 100 meters. A Japanese Miyota quartz movement powers the 44mm stainless steel models, featuring a brushed finish, raised logo and screw-down case-back. The watches come on brown or black leather straps that are handmade in New York City to promote locally sourced products. A black rubber strap is also an option.

The Classic Rebel Chrono is a modern interpretation of the classic military field watch and features a matte black or white finish dial with raised numerals.

Available in black or silver, the Rebel Aviator blends style and functionality. Modern accents contrast with classic details to create a handsome mix of military style. Recessed subdials on a bronze inner ring and cut-out luminous numerals ensure easy readability at a glance.

Be on the lookout for the next creation from Rebel Time - a new modern diver powered by a Swiss automatic movement. If this first collection is any indication of what is to come, this brand is definitely one to watch.





“What would you like for your birthday?” In the winter of 2012, Long Islander Ken Scheben asked his son Chris that very common question. The answer, it turned out, would lead the pair to launch a successful online retail watch business a few months later.

Chris, at the time a newly minted college grad who needed to upgrade his wardrobe, said he could use a good watch. Ken, a former executive of a Fortune 500 company, suggested they shop online. The search proved to be an exercise in frustration. The number of brands and styles — and sellers — they quickly found out was staggering.

Father and son scrolled through grainy amateurish photos and “thumbnail” stock images, zoomed in to check the details, and discovered the resolution was too low to show them much of anything. They compared prices and return policies, then read the product and seller reviews, hoping the information was accurate. A quality timepiece is an investment. Purchasing one online was convenient, but doing so required a tremendous leap of faith.

THAT’S WHEN IT CLICKED.

In addition to his 27 years of sales and marketing experience, Ken has a background in professional nature photography. He saw an opportunity to leverage his expertise and his arsenal of high-end photographic gear to launch a business that would take the guesswork out of buying a timepiece online. He would provide high-definition, detailed, color-corrected photos of his inventory that would highlight every feature and function of each watch. He would ensure that the descriptions were complete and the spec sheets were accurate. In short, his online shop would have as close as you can get, without being there, to the feel of a brick-and-mortar store.

Ken boned up on fashion jewelry photographic techniques, updated his eBay account, and placed an opening order for stock. He started with the Invicta brand, as there was a plethora of models to work with and the company was known for its visually complex executions, a perfect match for the detailed photographic presentation he would soon engage in.

It wasn’t long before people were coming to Ken with questions





about Invicta watches even if they didn't intend to buy from him, and he always took the time to respond. Ken's approach appealed to Invicta collectors. Within a few months he had hundreds of eBay feedbacks, all of them positive.

Chris, who holds a public relations degree, realized what his father was building and wondered whether what Ken had accomplished with Invicta on eBay could be extended to other brands and other sales channels, including a company website and social media. Chris joined the business, which the pair christened Time Visions (www.TimeVisions.com) to reflect the company's mission to provide a luxury retail shopping experience online, with all the attention to detail of a neighborhood watch seller. They added video to their listings and now have a successful YouTube channel offering tutorials as well as product videos (<https://goo.gl/PtsjBL>).

Time Visions today is an authorized dealer for brands such as Vostok-Europe, Reactor, Junkers, Zeppelin, JBW and more. Obtaining authorized dealership status can be difficult for online dealers, as manufacturers must protect their brick-and-mortar partners from online price competition. While gray-market opportunities with big-name brands are always present and likely profitable, Time Visions turns down such options because it could not offer warranty protection for those products.

"It's a big deal for us," says Ken. "We work with each manufacturer to understand the features of every watch we offer so that we can answer your questions before you buy and support your service requirements after your purchase. A huge chunk of our business is repeat customers who choose us knowing that if anything ever goes wrong with their watch, they'll be supported both by us and the brand itself. You can't generate that level of trust without being an authorized dealer."

Time Visions has grown tremendously since it started as a humble eBay store, but its philosophy hasn't changed. Ken and Chris still spend up to three hours on the presentation for each watch they stock, and Time Visions' commitment to ensuring that customers know exactly what they're buying has never wavered.



traser



Trigalight is the brand name for the self-illuminating Tritium-filled tubes that need no exposure to light in order to glow. Created by Microtec, Niederwengen, Switzerland, these self-illuminating tubes have found homes in a variety of products including gun sights and wristwatches. The subtle and steady glow these tubes create make it a perfect addition for military, police, and other services that need to be able to reference the time under a host of conditions. And although these tubes will glow nearly as bright as when they were manufactured for 20-25 years, they pose absolutely no danger to the user as the low-level radiation is perfectly safe to use and be near.

In the watch industry there have been a variety of brands incorporating the Trigelight tubes into watches of various styles and price points, but mb Microtec also has its own “house” brand, Traser, that uses its own technology.

Two new releases from Traser include the Aurora GMT and the Officer Pro Gun Metal.

For the first time in its history, Traser combines its own in-house manufactured self-activated illumination technology Trigelight with SuperLumiNova. The dials of the new Aurora GMT timepieces reveal a metamorphosis of the time display when darkness sets in. As the green glow & blue glow of the SuperLumiNova on the

LIGHTS THE WAY



dial gradually fades, the ice blue and verdant green glow of the gleaming trigalight becomes more prominent for unfailing legibility regardless of the available ambient light. The Trigalight-hairlight tube is deployed for the first time in the new Aurora GMT watches. These miniscule glass capillaries glow in an array of amazing colors reminiscent of the polar lights. Each tube has an exterior diameter of 0.3 mm and a microscopically tiny interior diameter of just 0.15 mm – roughly equal to the diameter of a human hair.

Similar to the Aurora, when first darkened, the entire dial of the OFFICER PRO GUN METAL shines with its lime color and green glass gasket. As time goes by, the dial's color and the gasket start

to fade as the photons captured by the Super Luminova's exposure to light wane. The effect is like raising the curtain in a theatre: the dial now becomes the perfect stage for the seventeen Trigalight self illuminating tubes inserted in the hour markers, the hands, and beneath the logo step to the fore until only the Trigalight tubes can be seen as they emit unfading light throughout the night.

Both versions sport 42mm stainless steel cases rated to 10atm, both have sapphire crystals and a Swiss quartz movement within. All in all a great watch design and construction starting at \$395.

www.traserwatchesusa.com

My CLASSIMA

When a brand like Baume and Mercier releases a watch that retails for under \$1,000, the watch collecting public is going to sit up and take notice. It's not often that a brand name spoken in the same breath with some of the greatest watches known comes out with a watch in this price range.

The My Classima collection from Baume and Mercier offers the opportunity to own a Swiss call brand for only a few hundred dollars. The watches are designed after styles of Baume and Mercier of the 1940s, so case sizes are traditional with 40mm, 36mm and 31mm.

The watches are slim, elegantly designed with the features you would expect from this brand – sapphire crystal, surgical grade stainless steel, cowhide leather and a date complication. The engine is a Swiss ETA quartz. For more information visit www.baume-et-mercier.com.





Graf Zeppelin, out of Germany, the same company that produces Junkers watches, has come out with two new models commemorating the Hindenburg. Like most watches from the Graf Zeppelin line, these are classic in both look and dimensions.

One model comes with gold tone plated case and the other is stainless steel silvertone. The movement is the Ronda 706B quartz moonphase, which is protected by a Hesalite crystal in a 40 mm case. The watch also features a sub dial with day of the week indicator and the date on the outer chapter ring with an extended, red-tipped hand to mark it.

Find out more at www.longislandwatch.com



Required reading.

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TIGERS & SNAKES & BEES ..

Gucci is certainly showing its playful side with two new collections featuring textures, colors and an animal palette to create something entirely new in watches.

The traditionally rugged feel of a dive watch is enhanced with contemporary House motifs to take an instrument watch into a new dimension. The extra-large 45mm variants are fitted with a Gucci web nylon strap in blue-and-red or green-and-red in a watch that elicits immediate reaction with its bold color schemes. Details from the fine honeybee or tiger embroidery on the dial to the racing stripes combine and contrast the ostensible nature of a diver's type. Two 40mm yellow or all-black variants worked with a sporty rubberized insert on the stainless steel case and crown match the chunky rubber straps stamped with the Gucci logo. Gucci's dive watches house a Swiss Made Ronda quartz movement and are rated water resistant to 200 meters. Prices are \$1,120 on rubber and \$1,350 on the woven strap.

Another addition cultivating similar disruptive styling is the Le Marché des Merveilles collection. Again, a rich palette of colors and materials reflect the current creative aesthetic of the house Gucci. Two versions come with a soft brown Tuscan calf-skin strap; three others have a sportier look and are fitted with a nylon strap featuring the striped Gucci web. Cases are coordinated to the colors of each timepiece, worked in warm yellow gold PVD or stainless steel version. The snake is also framed on a special leather variant, crafted from a single piece of leather used for both the strap



Oh My





and the dial. Here, a grainy leather strap is embellished with a highly detailed red snake design that spirals along the strap before being captured under the sapphire glass. This piece comes with a polished stainless steel case. Each watch in the Le Marché des Merveilles collection is presented in a 38mm size and is engraved with the bee design on the case back. Web strap edition will retail for \$790 and the leather snake edition will cost \$850.

Michael Graves

Wearable architecture rises to an entirely new level with two new watches designed by Michael Graves Architecture & Design (MGA&D) and manufactured by the Projects watches company.

Available in two distinctive designs: the Scallop watch features a modern take on the centuries-old guilloché technique, while the MADO watch expresses geometric individuality.

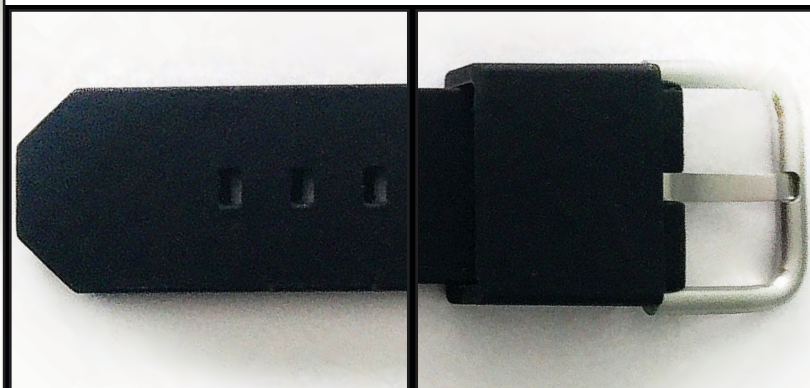
The Scallop shown here proposes a rose gold (plated) case with the guilloché pattern dial on brown leather band with a quartz movement within.

Named after the Japanese word for window, the MADO watch features a circle and square shape to create a “window” through which time is viewed. “The ‘square peg in a round hole’ idiom is a fitting description for the MADO watch because it artfully communicates the individuality that we all yearn to express,” said Donald Strum, product design principal at MGA&D. The watch’s MADO effect is achieved by the placement of the square black dial, with its unique engraving pattern, within the circular brushed stainless steel bezel. The watch face is punctuated by high-contrast, stamped numerals (taken from an original font designed by the late Michael Graves) that appear to hover within a crystal lens. Both the Scallop (\$149) & the MADO (\$135) are available on www.projectswatches.com



Normalzeit

Emulating the cube shaped clocks from Vienna, Fredi Brodman's recent design work pays homage to both his birth city and chosen industry. Having designed more watches than we can list here, Brodmann's most recent variation on the theme modifies size and engines to appeal to as wide a range of buyers as possible without losing the (normal) zeitgeist of the Viennese original. \$500 for a Seiko automatic in a 40x40mm stainless steel case, or \$400 for Ronda quartz version housed in a 36mm x 36mm case. www.normazeitwatches.com





Tokens & Coins



Show you're a real fan for the game with a watch that has a dial made from leather harvested from an authentic Major League game-used baseball. Officially licensed by Major League Baseball, Tokens & Icons has developed a host of enthusiast driven memorabilia now capped with a watch that shows your love of the sport, as well as your team. Each dial carries a hologram designed specifically for this series and each individual certification can be researched on www.mlb.com/authentication to discover more details about the ball's own game history. From the front of this 40mm stainless steel case you'll see the red stitching and wear marks that confirm the leather has seen actual game use. On the back the brushed stainless steel is hallmarked with the home team that used the ball. An authentic Italian cognac-colored leather strap with contrast stitching recalls the color and texture of a baseball glove, while a Ronda quartz movement tracks the time within. Each watch comes gift-boxed with an authentication instruction card. You can find your team ball watch at www.tokens-icons.com for \$325.

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WHAT? A CLASSIC-LOOKING SMARTWATCH MAKES THIS LATE- STER PUNCTUAL

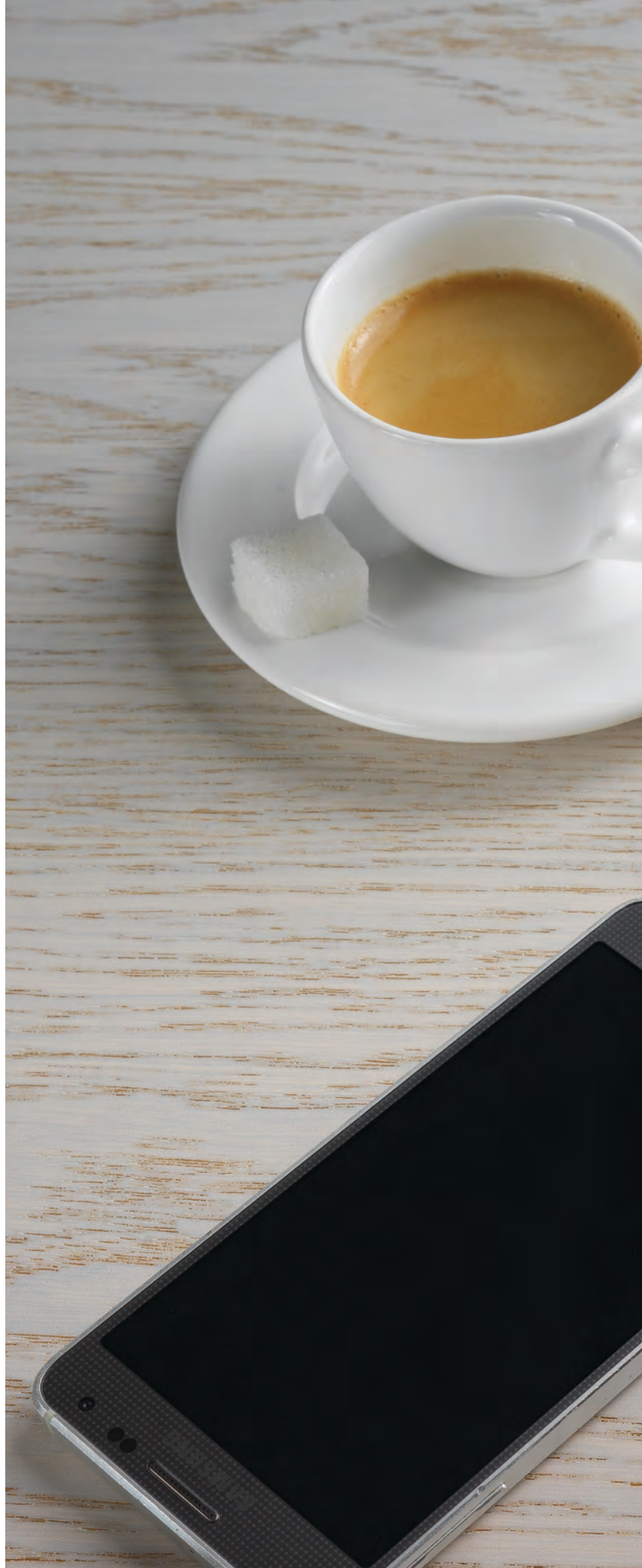
My dad disliked wristwatches. He found them both uncomfortable and unnecessary – which, in his case, was true. He was always punctual and needed no reminders. My mom, on the other hand, came from an enormous family that seemed to pride itself on lateness – a tendency I inherited.

I've adopted a variety of coping mechanisms. Wake-up calls when I'm traveling. Outlook reminders with loud chiming. Setting clocks 10 or 15 minutes fast. Smartphone calendars. Pocket calendars. Scraps of paper. And always, an assortment of wristwatches.

Thus, the What? Calendar Watch was perfect for my needs and tastes. For starters, I'm well past 40, which is, ostensibly, the cutoff between those who favor contemporary "smart" watches and those who prefer a watch with both classic looks and functions. While it is designed to function in tandem with one's smartphone calendar, the What? Calendar Watch doesn't have a plasticky, smart-watch look: to the contrary, all of its color and face choices are classically stylish.

The model I tested had a brown leather band, a stainless steel body and a white and gray face; it also comes in aqua and gunmetal black. My conservative watch wouldn't look a bit out of place with a well-tailored suit – and, in fact, I wore it to a job interview. This particular interview consisted of multiple meetings spread over four hours one Tuesday in October, and the calendaring function not only kept me punctual – it looked pretty snazzy.

One practical challenge I found about the Calendar Watch was the process of charging it. Unlike all of the other wristwatches that end up in my top drawer, awaiting new batteries, this one doesn't rely on a quartz battery but on that ubiquitous tool of the tech world: A USB charging cord. You also must position it accurately on a





„Die Heiligkeit der Person“

Mitten in Europas Flüchtlingskrise erhält Franziskus den Aachener Karlspreis. Was will der Papst auf dem Kontinent sagen? Politik, Seite 6

Gedicht als Schrift als Bild

Franz Mon, Godfather der konkreten Poesie, feiert seinen neunzigsten Geburtstag. Hausbesuch. Feuilleton

Pensionäre ents...

Beamte müssen keine Angst vor der Rente fürchten. Auf staatlicher Seite sind andere Sparten angewiesen. Wirtschaft

Der große Unbek...

Pep Guardiola hat dem FC Bayern und dem Land eine neue Fußballbesitzerin beschert, ohne es zu merken. Sport, Seite 8

Wohnen in der Kirche

Finanzschwache Kirchen in New York verpachten Teile ihrer Grundstücke. So entstehen neue Wohnmöglichkeiten. Immobilien

Briefe an die Herausgeber

Feuerpause in Aleppo hält

ALEPPO, 5. Mai (AP) – In der nordsyrischen Stadt wird die nächste Runde der Kämpfe zwischen den Rebellen und den Regierungstruppen nicht stattfinden. Seit Beginn der zweitägigen Waffenruhe am Donnerstagabend sind keine weiteren Beobachtungen von Bombenanschlägen oder Schüssen zu verzeichnen. Die Waffenruhe ist ein wichtiger Schritt auf dem Weg zum Frieden in der syrischen Hauptstadt. Außenministerin Catherine Ashton hat die Vereinbarung begrüßt. (Siehe Seite 5.)

Schäuble: Steuer...

Die Bundesregierung wird die Steuerreform nicht vorantreiben. Schäuble: Die Reform ist ein wichtiger Schritt auf dem Weg zum Frieden in der syrischen Hauptstadt. Außenministerin Catherine Ashton hat die Vereinbarung begrüßt. (Siehe Seite 5.)



charging plate that is slightly larger than the body of the watch.

I proved to be all thumbs at this. Instead, my 14-year-old son, a whiz at all things tech, got it hooked up right away.

In contrast, I found its synching function rather entertaining. Once fully charged, the user must synchronize the watch with a smartphone and its online calendar. My own phone uses a Google calendar app, and the Calendar Watch linked to it seamlessly. The minute hand then made a bunch of revolutions to advance the watch to the correct time. Cool to watch.

I was klutzy in yet another regard: Dealing with the Calendar Watch's bracelet-style clasp. During the four weeks that I wore this watch, I never quite got the hang of putting snapping it in place on my wrist in the morning and, on several mornings, I put it on backwards.

I also found the time between charges to be a bit short. Were I wearing the watch every day, eventually I would get accustomed to keeping it charged and not have to ask my son for assistance. Well, maybe: When I found the watch to be dead, I simply left it off my arm for a day or two – which defeats one of its main attractions: acting as a go-to accessory for the day's events.

The other thing I found lacking – odd, considering its name – was a calendar. As in, month, date and year. True, it keeps you

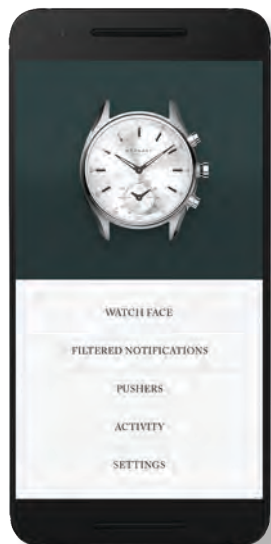


abreast of what's in store for your day, but it leaves you guessing what day it is. Considering the size of the Calendar Watch's face, this might be something for its makers to add in when it designs a new model.

One final note about size: I quibble its maker's description of the Calendar Watch as "classic" in size. To be sure, I'm 5'5" and my arms are a bit smaller than average, but I think this watch would look enormous on most men's arms. Still, the Calendar Watch drew plenty of compliments, so perhaps my own tastes are due for an overhaul.

KRONABY

By James Henderson



DISCONNECTING WITH A CONNECTED WATCH

It seems that watch lovers are, to some extent, divided into two major tribes: Those that only wear and appreciate mechanical watches. Everyone else.



If I am being completely honest, I have been a staunch member of the first group for most of my adult life. Quartz is, by its very design, somewhat simple. Somewhat basic. And some critics would go so far as to say, quartz has no soul.

And this made the onslaught of the smart/connected watch somewhat of a non-event for me. For the most part you had two choices: A wrist-sized smart phone, or a FitBit placed in a watch case.

And then Kronaby came along. I was fortunate enough to attend the Kronaby launch this past January in Malmö, Sweden. And suffice it to say, the connected watch revolution has now officially started in earnest. Because Kronaby has come up with a connected watch that is actually smart.

Offered in four different versions, Kronaby has come up with a connected watch that actually allows and enables you to somewhat disconnect yourself from your phone and all of life's distractions while ensuring that you stay connected to the things that are important to you.

Unlike other connected or smart watches that dictate the functions (or lack thereof), Kronaby's connected watches allow YOU to decide which features YOU want! Moreover, if and when new features are available, you don't need to bring your watch in for an upgrade. Just as you update the apps on your phone, you update the features on your Kronaby!

The new Kronaby collection is available in four different models –

The Apex, a sporty model measuring 43mm in diameter

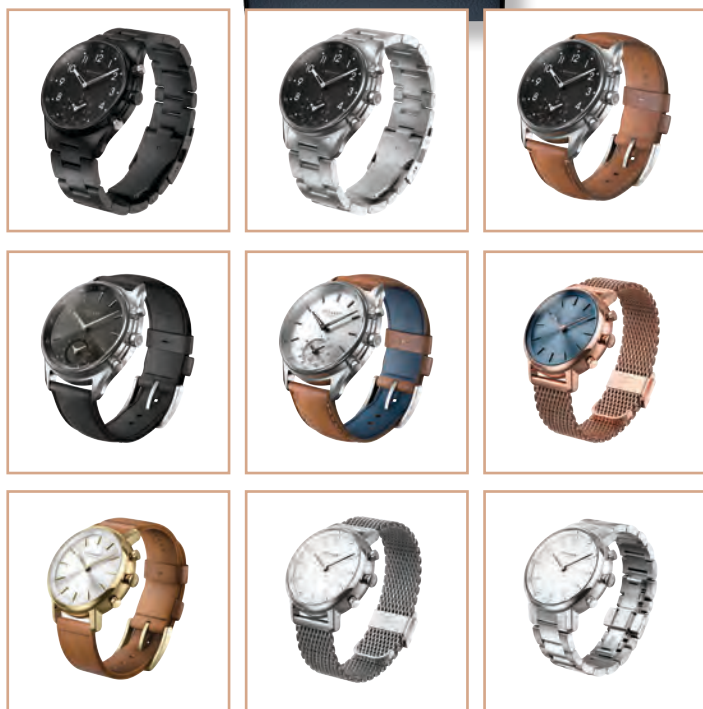
The Sekel, a more stylized take, also 43mm in diameter

The Nord, slightly smaller at 38mm in diameter with a cleaner, more paired down look and feel

And the **Carat**, also 38mm available with either a blue or white dial.

But what about the various feature options? Well, they are all controlled directly from the watch to your smart phone and can be accessed with the crown or the pushers. Here is how they are described by Kronaby –

And there are some pretty striking options. And I PROMISE that I'll go into all sorts of detail over the coming days, but for now I thought it might be worth going into the features that are under the hood.



AUTO TIME ZONE – ALWAYS ON TIME

No matter how many time zones the watch crosses, it automatically displays the local time accurately.

SILENT ALARM – A GENTLE WAKE-UP CALL

By switching on the silent alarm, the watch's soundless vibrations will only wake the user, letting those around carry on snoozing.

FILTERED NOTIFICATIONS – NEVER MISS WHAT MATTERS

There is a fine line between staying connected and being distracted. That is why Kronaby lets users choose to be notified only by the people they care most about.

BATTERY LIFE – NEVER CHARGE

With a standard battery that lasts up to two-years (depending on use), users will never again have to put their life on hold while searching for an outlet to recharge.

GET MOVING – TAKE A STAND

Get up and get moving – there is increasing evidence that we need to spend less time sitting to maintain a healthy physique. Kronaby can send a gentle reminder when the user has been inactive for too long.

CROWN FEATURES

ADDITIONAL TIME ZONE – IN SYNC WITH THE WORLD

Kronaby keeps users continuously connected with the outside world by letting them select an additional time zone to be displayed on the watch face.

DATE – STAY UP-TO-DATE

Knowing the current date is a fundamental piece of information that is readily available through the push of a button.

DAILY HUNDRED – EVERY STEP COUNTS

Statistics show that activity is key for a healthier life. Kronaby users can set a step goal and track progress daily.

TIMER – KEEPING COUNT

Proper time management is hard to achieve without the right tools. A timer allows users to box chores and find their focus.

PUSHER FEATURES

CAMERA REMOTE – PICTURE PERFECT

The built-in camera remote lets users switch places, from always being the person behind the camera to sharing the moment with friends in front of it.

REMEMBER THIS SPOT – YOU WERE HERE

Part of living is trying new things and experiencing unfamiliar places. To make sure to find the way back, users can press the Geo Tag button.

FIND PHONE – NEVER LOST AGAIN

Busy days make us all forget and misplace things. The clever pusher trigger on the watch reveals the phone's whereabouts.

WALK ME HOME – FEEL SAFE 24/7

Being free to move around safely should be everyone's prerogative. The push of a button sends a signal to a loved one, letting them respond and follow the user every step. It's like having someone walk you home, but from a distance.

REJECT CALL – DECLINE WITH A TAP

In our connected world, prioritizing incoming phone calls is an inevitable modern-day nuisance. Kronaby just made it less of a hassle through the Decline Call button on the wrist.

MUSIC CONTROL – IMMEDIATE TUNES

Kronaby give users instant access to their favorite music, whenever and wherever they want by Press Play.

Kronaby will initially be available in Europe, but intends to be available on these shores late spring / early summer.

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